Amendments to th Specification:

Kindly amend the specification as follows:

Page 1, between lines 1 and 2, insert:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This is a continuation application of application Serial No. 09/661,252 filed September 13, 2000, which is a continuation of application Serial No. PCT/AU99/00181, filed March 18, 1999, the entire contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference for all purposes, and which claims foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119 to British Application 9805641.9 filed March 18, 1998.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 16 with the following paragraph:

According to a first aspect of the invention there is provided a composite superconducting tape comprising a multiplicity of stacked and diffusion bonded superconducting ~~monofilamentary or multifilamentary~~ tapes in which all elongate components extend longitudinally and a compatible metal tape is bonded to at least one exposed major surface.

On page 5, between lines 19 and 20, please insert the following:

According to another aspect of the invention there is provided a composite superconducting tape constructed from a plurality of elongate superconducting tapes which each include at least one major surface, the composite superconducting tape

including:

a diffusion-bonded stack of the plurality of superconducting tapes in which all elongate components extend longitudinally and in which at least one of the major surfaces is exposed; and

a compatible metal tape that is bonded to the exposed major surface.

Preferably, the plurality of superconducting tapes each include at least one superconductive filament and an outer casing of predominantly silver for both containing the filaments and defining the major surface, the metal tape including a first surface for abutting the at least one exposed major surface and a second surface opposite the first surface. More preferably, the metal tape is silver and the distance between the second surface and the closest filament of the adjacent superconducting tape is at least 10 μm.

Preferably also, the stack includes a second exposed major surface and the composite superconductor tape includes a second compatible metal tape which is bonded to the second exposed major surface. More preferably, the metal tapes differ in at least one characteristic. Even more preferably, the differing characteristic is chosen from the set consisting of: thickness; strength; rigidity; width; and coefficient of thermal expansion.

In a preferred form, the composite superconducting tape includes a second diffusion-bonded stack having a plurality of superconducting tapes, wherein the two stacks are maintained in a substantially parallel configuration.

Preferably, the metal tape is diffusion bonded to the exposed major surface.